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<http://www.chron.com/default/article/Seat-of-explosion-at-fertilizer-plant-located-4451418.php>

WEST – Investigators have pinpointed the "seat" of Wednesday night's massive explosion in an effort to determine how it could have occurred, causing 14 deaths and damaging homes and buildings in a five-block area, a state official said Sunday morning.

"Knowing the seat of that explosion is important," [Kelly Kistner](#), assistant state fire marshal, said during a news conference in front of the West City Hall.

"We do have a large crater," he said, declining to give any details on its location or dimensions.

The development is part of an investigation by the state fire marshal's office that will likely take several months, he said.

Meanwhile, the city has begun a three-phase effort to allow residents with homes in the restricted area to re-enter. Some in the "phase 1" area, with the least damage from Oak Street to Walnut Street, have returned, but do not have gas or water service, said [Steve Vanek](#), the mayor pro-tem.

Gas lines are being tested to determine when service can resume, and the [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#) is helping ensure water quality in the area, officials said.

The [Texas Department of Public Safety](#) is overseeing a highly controlled process for re-entry of residents into the area. Residents have been lining up in vehicles at a checkpoint and assigned "entry numbers," and permitted into the area between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Officials also announced a combined memorial service for the fallen first responders scheduled for 2 p.m. Thursday at the [Ferrell Center](#) at [Baylor University](#) in nearby Waco. The arena seats more than 10,000 people.

"We expect a very large event," said [Joe Ondrasek](#), executive board secretary with the nonprofit [Texas Line of Duty Death](#) Task Force. He said the deaths of West firefighters and other emergency personnel has hit close to home for all first responders.

"We're a family," he said. "We all understand the close relationship that these guys have locally."